

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/728,091

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith are nine (9) sheets of drawing containing original Figures 1-12 and new Figures 13-15.

Attachment: Nine (9) sheets of replacement drawing containing Figs. 1-15.

REMARKS

Applicant cancels claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant adds new claims 22-29. New claims 22 and 23 are derived from claims 1 to 5. New apparatus claims 24 and 31 are derived from claims 7 to 10.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the reference characters “20” and “21” allegedly refer to the same item in the drawings. However, it is respectfully submitted that reference character “20” refers to an embodiment of a feeder shown in Fig. 2 and reference character “21” refers to an alternative embodiment of a feeder shown in Fig. 6, for example.

New Figures 13, 14 and 15 are added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is introduced as the subject matter is described in the specification beginning at page 7, second paragraph.

Objections

The objection to claim 10 is moot since the claims have been rewritten.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 2 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koelle. Applicant respectfully submits that Koelle does not anticipate the new claims at least because Koelle does not disclose the limitations regarding turning coupons 90 degrees.

The remaining claims are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kolle in view of various secondary and tertiary references. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not render the pending claims unpatentable at least because they fail

to disclose any process steps or apparatus which would be appropriate for addressing the problems addressed in the present application.

1. US 6 942 216 (**Koelle**) relates to the handling of individual sheets. These are apparently transported exclusively in a horizontal plane. Pursuant to Koelle's Fig. 1, two single sheets 100a, 100b are severed from a web 100. These are then directed in a transverse direction to cover each other. As a final product, a row of aligned sheets 10a, 10b is formed, which are arranged in squamous, or offset, fashion in the conveying direction. Such a formation of blanks or even coupons is not realized in the apparatus or method according to the invention. The handling and transport system of Koelle is also neither in part nor as a whole applicable for the purpose of the invention.

2. US 5 590 507 (**Wyssmann**) is also irrelevant to the topic of the invention. It fails to state a comparable task to be solved, nor is the solution shown and described comparable either in part or as a whole to the invention.

In Wyssmann, stacks of sheets 1 of an original size are transported. In a first station the stacks are numbered and then further transported as a stack of determined quantity. The stacks of sheets are then sent to a first cutting unit 6 and a further cutting unit 7, thereby forming relatively small stacks of notes. After these stacks are checked, they are finally sent to a packing station 11.

Wyssmann also fails to show any parallels to the invention.

3. US 6 688 593 (**Auerbach**) relates to the transport of (letter) envelopes in conjunction with a "mail processing system". Of interest here is that the envelopes 7, introduced in horizontal alignment, are brought into an upright position during further transport and then

deflected. The envelopes are brought to an upright position in the region of a twisted belt pair 11. As described in column 4, line 41, such belt pairs are known for turning flat objects.

Auerbach also fails to make a connection to the transport of coupons in a packaging machine either to a magazine or, alternatively, to a pack.

4. US 5 330 174 (**Ricciardi**) likewise relates to a mailing system, namely to mail sorting equipment. Here the envelopes are transported by a succession of belts and during transport turned by twisted belts so that they can be placed in containers 24 in a turned position. This reference also merely confirms that flat, sheet-like articles can be turned by twisted conveyors.

5. US 4 304 485 (**Povio**) relates to an even more distant topic, namely to a copying machine which can merge and bind copied sheets. Its background is described particularly in the abstract. It involves the deflection of sheets with respect to their direction of movement from a "reproduction processor to the opposite direction to a finishing station". Deflecting elements are employed for this purpose, for example as shown in the exemplary embodiment of Fig. 4. The deflecting element, however, is neither identical nor functionally congruent with the deflecting element, or deflecting conveyor 32, of the invention.

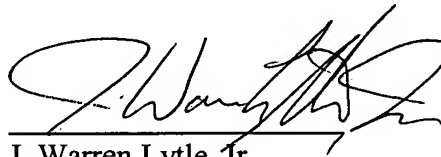
In conclusion it can be stated that the prior art, either individually or in an intelligently combined view, fails to show a solution which comes even close to that employed by the invention set forth in the new patent claims.

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If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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